(d) if so, whether it is causing benefit to the mobile companies in private sector; and

(e) the details of the action being taken against the guilty officials in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For covering rural areas with WLL facility, following WLL towers (BTS) are installed/targeted during the current financial year:

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	Number of WLL Towers (BTS)
1.	Madhya Pradesh	126
2	Maharashtra	09

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (c) above.

STD/ISD rates

2442. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rates of STD/ISD facilities are uniform all over the country;

(b) if so, how people in cities like Pune and elsewhere charge arbitrary rates from the customers;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to ensure uniform rates and facilities all over India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

(d) Uniform rates and facilities all over India can be termed as One-India concept. "One India" involves a series of steps with a final objective of uniform and reduced call rates across the country. The Government has initiated following steps in this direction:

(i) The Dialing procedure was simplified between Kolkata and West Bengal, Mumbai and Maharashtra, Chennai and Tamil Nadu and in Uttar Pradesh.

(ii) Reduction in entry fee for National and International Long Distance service licences.

(iii) Reduction in licence fee for National and International Long Distance service and Very Small Aperture Satellite Terminal (V-SAT) commercial licences with effect from 1.1.2006.

(iv) The Access service providers have been permitted to provide Internet Telephony.

Steps are afoot to ensure that the Access Deficit Charge (ADC) is migrated to revenue share basis instead of fixed amount on per minute basis.

Sea Cable for International Call Traffic

2443. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal for a joint venture of MTNL and BSNL for setting up a sea cable for International Call Traffic; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the likely date of the commencement of the work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to form joint venture of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for setting up submarine cable link for International Long Distance (ILD) service.

(b) This proposal is presently at conceptual stage.